

OUT TO LUNCH PROGRAM

“You can see the power of the Out to Lunch Program to change a community. But, there are still communities where the youth do not even have access to meals. We must fill these gaps so that more children have access to quality summer meals. We must recognize the connection between feeding kids and keeping them healthy and keeping them out of trouble.”

- Mayor Mark Mallory

With the launch of the “Out to Lunch” program, Mayor Mallory hopes to fill the gaps in the coverage of the Summer Food Program. The Summer Food Program is an initiative that feeds children in a number of locations around Cincinnati. Every week, the “Out to Lunch” Program will hold special events for young people in communities that do not currently have a Summer Food Service site. The program is designed to illustrate the need for additional sites and to recruit organizations to host sites. Every young person who attends will receive a free nutritionally balanced lunch and have the opportunity to participate in activities and games planned by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission.

The kick-off was held at the Mt. Auburn Community Center. At the morning event, Mayor Mallory announced that the program had already shown its first result. The Mt. Auburn Community Center signed on to be a full time Summer Food Program site next year.

Facts:

- Last year, Cincinnati Public Schools served 99,000 lunches through the entire Summer Food Program.
- So far this year, from June 12 through July 17, CPS has already served 108,000 lunches. CPS has already exceeded last year’s totals with still a month remaining in the program.
- In 2006, CPS was able to feed more children by expanding the Summer Food Program by two weeks.

Local community organizations are invited to come to learn about how they can become a Summer Food Service site. Organizations interested in getting involved in next year’s Summer Food Service Program should contact the Children’s Hunger Alliance at 1-800-227-6446 to get more details.